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Good morning, my name is Robert A. Murphy. Senator McDonald, Representative Lawlor and Members of the Judiciary Committee, I thank you for this opportunity to meet with you. I want to thank Governor M. Jodi Rell for nominating me to the Parole Board.

For the past seven months, I have had the honor and privilege of working with a very select group of highly qualified professionals as a full time member of the Connecticut Board of Pardons and Paroles. My primary focus during this time has been to protect the public by making responsible decisions regarding when and under what circumstances eligible offenders will be released from confinement.

To accomplish the mission, the Parole Board has encouraged the participation and input of victims and their families. We consider their input a valuable component of our parole decision. In addition, based on our individual knowledge and experiences, we interview the offenders and instill in them the fact that parole is a privilege and not a right. Our goal is to make them productive members of society again. As a board, we provide guidance and stipulations to help them succeed while protecting the citizens of our state. We also assist in the procurement of treatment services in order to facilitate their re-entry into society.

For twenty six years, I was employed as a Special Agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation. My background as a law enforcement officer has prepared me to make fair and reasonable parole decisions, based on the information that is provided. My experience has guided me as I review each case involving the release of an offender and their safe integration into the community. For my entire career, public safety has always been my highest priority.

Following my tenure with the Federal Bureau of Investigation I was employed by Kroll, Incorporated, a risk consulting firm. During my four years with Kroll, I interviewed and investigated candidates in order to evaluate their suitability for employment with the United States Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) and the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE). This investigative work, which was conducted over a six state area, was a determining factor in the employment selection process for these governmental agencies.

The investigative and problem solving skills I developed during my law enforcement and investigative career of over thirty years have prepared me for the complex decisions I am faced with as a full time member of the Board of Pardons and Paroles.

In conclusion, I would state that I strongly support all the laws of our state. I feel that Public Act 08-1 was a major step in closing the loopholes in our criminal justice system and it strengthens our crime laws. I applaud the recommendations of the Governor's task force as well as this Judiciary Committee that made this act possible.

I thank you for the opportunity to continue this very important work and I pledge to perform my duties to the best of my ability.

If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them at this time.